

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Approval of the proposed change to Fig. 2 shown in red ink on the attached drawing sheet, to include a caliper and mount as required by the April 5, 2005 Drawing Objection, is respectfully requested.

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are currently pending in the present application.

The Applicant wishes to express appreciation for the courtesies extended in the interview conducted on May 20, 2005. The foregoing amendments and following remarks are consistent with the discussions in the interview.

1. The Drawing Objection Has Been Addressed: Attached for Examiner approval is a proposed red-ink drawing change, which adds a schematically-illustrated brake caliper and mounting bracket 20. Corresponding amendments identifying element 20 have been included in Specification ¶ [0024]. The Applicant submits that the illustration of a brake caliper straddling the friction portion of a disk brake rotor does not introduce new matter, as one of ordinary skill would readily recognize the normal positioning of a caliper straddling a disk and located by a mounting to the vehicle axle. *See, e.g.*, Specification at ¶ [0002] (describing prior art caliper); ¶¶ [0013], [0015] (discussing caliper used with present invention).

Approval of the proposed drawing amendment and withdrawal of the pending objection is respectfully requested.

2. The Specification Objection Has Been Addressed: In response to the specification objection regarding the “outer radius” and “inner radius” language in Specification ¶ [0022], the Applicant has amended this paragraph to recite that the connecting portion 4 “extends from the hub portion at hub portion outer radius 7 (corresponding to the inner radius of connecting portion 4) to an inner radius 8 of friction portion 3 (corresponding to the outer radius of connecting portion 4).”

3. The § 112 Rejection Has Been Addressed: Claims 16-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite for use of the term “a hub end” in both lines 3 and 8 of claim 16. The Applicant has amended claim 16 to recite “the hub end” in line 8, to ensure it is clear that the same hub end of the axle is referred to in both locations in claim 16. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending §112, second paragraph, rejection is respectfully requested.

4. The Claims are Patentable Over Benson: The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-5, 7-8, 10-11, 13, 16-18, 20-21, 23-24 and 27-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,655,237 to Benson, and the rejection of claims 4-6, 9, 12, 15, 17-19, 22, 25 and 28 as unpatentable over § 103(a) over Benson in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,379,290 to Hamilton, on the grounds that Benson, with or without Hamilton, does not disclose or suggest all the features of the invention recited in amended claims 1 and 16.

As discussed in the May 20, 2005 interview, the Applicant is amending the claims to recite that the friction portion is “formed as a generally planar ring.” The April 5, 2005 Office Action maintains that Benson’s tub-shaped flange 13 bolted at an outer radius to ring 19 corresponds to the claimed “friction portion.” April 5, 2005 Office Action at 4; Benson Fig. 1. The Benson tub-shaped flange 13 is not “formed as a generally planar ring,” and thus fails to disclose or suggest the embodiments of the present invention recited in amended claims 1 and 16. The deficiencies of Benson are not cured by Hamilton, which is cited only for teaching a heat-limiting portion. Accordingly, claims 1-28 are patentable over these references

under § 102(b) and § 103(a). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

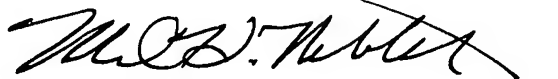
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant submits the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-28.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #011351.52877US).

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Respectfully submitted,



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